

6.0 Regalia

the first to care

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6.1 Seal of the Priory

Following the elevation of the Commandery to a Priory in 1946, it became necessary to obtain a Seal, which Grand Priory undertook to have made, and gifted to the Priory in December 1950. The Seal is engraved with the head of St John the Baptist as is the custom, and the legend *SIGILLVM PRIORATVS ORDINIS HOSPITALIS SANCTI IOHANNIS HIERUSALEM IN NOVA ZEALANDIA**. The Seal is applied to legal documents, and Order certificates and parchments.

*The Seal of the Priory of the Order of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem in New Zealand

6.2 Priory Standard

The design of the Priory Standard is taken from the Arms of the Priory in New Zealand. The Arms are “bled out into an oblong” to create the shape of the Standard. The first Standard was a gift from the Grand Priory, and was carried in procession at the St John’s Day Service in St Paul’s Cathedral, London in 1956. It was brought to New Zealand by the master of the *Dominion Monarch*, Captain KDG Fisher GM, and handed over to the Chancellor.



The Design of the Standard was approved by the Grand Prior, HRH Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester, sometime during the mid 1950s.

The present Standard was purchased in 1996, and dedicated at St Paul’s Cathedral, Wellington that year

The Priory Standard may only be carried by a Member of the Order.

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6.3 The St John Standard

This Standard bears the Badge of the Order, namely an eight-pointed white cross on a black background, having in alternate angles a lion and a unicorn in gold.

The original St John Standard was purchased with funds raised by Mr Conrad Fuller, SBStJ, of Wellington.



The present St John Standard was purchased in 1996, and dedicated at St Paul's Cathedral, Wellington that year.

6.4 Processional Cross

The Priory Cross is sterling silver with a wooden staff. It bears on the obverse side the figure of Christ ascending, with the Southern Cross, and the Order Mottoes and Arms and Badge at the end of each arm. On the reverse side, the Cross bears a depiction of the Good Samaritan and fern leaves, and at the end of each arm, it depicts Christ teaching, the Southern Cross and the letters NZ. The Cross was crafted in England to the design of William Bedkoher, and was a gift from the Hon Sir Heaton Rhodes, KCVO, KBE, GCStJ, in memory of his wife, Jessie Lady Rhodes, DStJ. The Cross arrived in New Zealand in April 1950, and was handed to the Prior, Sir Bernard Freyberg, VC, by John H Rhodes, KStJ, in a private ceremony at Christ's College, Christchurch in May 1950. It was dedicated at the St John's Day Service in Christchurch, and then used formally for the first time at the November Investiture that year.

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The Cross precedes the Priory Chapter or other bodies of Order Members in processions. The obverse side bearing the figure of Christ faces to the front of the procession, unless the Priory Dean or a church dignitary is in the procession, in which case the figure of Christ faces the procession. The Cross may only be carried by a Member of the Order.



Cross: Obverse



Cross: Reverse

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6.5 The Great Sword

The Great Sword is carried before the Presiding Officer at an Investiture or meeting of the Priory Chapter, and is the symbol of temporal jurisdiction. It was made in England sometime between 1950 and 1953 by the firm of Wilkinson, and is a replica of a hand-and-a-half sword of the late 15th century. It bears the Arms of the Order on its hilt and the Badge on the leather scabbard. Unlike most Swords of State it is borne sheathed in accordance with the ancient rule that Knights of St John drew sword solely in defence of the Christian faith. The Sword, a gift from the Grand Priory, was brought to New Zealand by the Prior designate Sir Willoughby Norrie in 1953, and presented to the Priory during the ceremony to install him as Prior.



6.6 Dubbing Sword

This small sword with cruciform hilt is used in conferring the accolade on Knights of the Order. It was the gift of P. P. O'Shea, Esq, LVO, KStJ, New Zealand Herald of Arms, and Mr Roy Towers, MBE, KStJ, Director of Ceremonies, in 1980.



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6.7 Queen's Beasts

A lion and a unicorn in silver mounted on a mahogany base form a sword rest for the Great Sword. They were gifted to the Priory in 1965 by Sir William Stevenson, KBE, KStJ.



6.8 Gonfalon

This is a banner suspended from a crossbar so that, when carried, it faces to the front. The Priory Gonfalon is of silk with the Arms of the Priory 'in chief' (at the top of the banner) and the Badge of the Order below. It was presented by the New Zealand Branch of the Heraldry Society and is one of only two St John gonfalons in the world, the other belonging to the Swedish Order of St John, the *Johanniterorden i Sverige*



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6.9 Wands

The Wands are the staffs of the Order's ceremonial officers and are carried as a sign of authority and ceremony.

One wand bears the Badge of the Order in Silver, and is thought to date from the 1930s. The other bears the Amalfi Cross in silver and its origins are not known.